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Executive Registry

65-7687

15 Dec 1965

Dear Bill:

In order to give you a proper feeling of this Agency's attitude toward recent press criticism, I am forwarding for your information a brief catalogue of some of the positive accomplishments which have been undertaken during my term of office.

When the press allegations about an internal crisis of confidence were made, my deputy, Mr. Richard Helms, convened a meeting with about sixty of our senior officials to discuss the press article. We could discover no facts which tended to support the allegations.

Because of the compartmented nature of our Agency, Mr. Helms took this opportunity to outline for these officials some of the programs currently underway.

Very briefly they are as follows:

1. The establishment of integrated task forces to deal with more important problems, including Communist China, Vietnam and the Dominican Republic.
2. The establishment of direct contact with Secretary McNamara by posting a senior CIA officer in the Secretary's office.
3. Briefing of Congressional Committees and appropriate members of the Congress, both here and abroad.
4. Exchange of information with research and development components of the Department of Defense.
5. Refinement and redefinition of our national intelligence requirements in both technical and non-technical fields.

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6. Completion, on 1 July 1965, of a long-range plan for the Agency.

7. Establishment of a permanent planning staff using the systems analysis approach to implement the long-range plan in conformity with the President's directives in this area.

8. Maintenance of close relations with Mr. Clark Clifford and members of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

9. Establishment of close personal contact with Secretary McNamara, Secretary Rusk, Director J. Edgar Hoover, and other senior officials who assure me that the external relations of CIA with their departments and agencies are excellent.

10. Conclusion of a new NRO Agreement.

11. Redirection of CIA's energies so that the Agency may perform better as a "service organization" to busy policy makers.

With reference to the foregoing, I have re-emphasized the fundamental mission of CIA which is to collect information by any and all means, to evaluate this information, and to disseminate intelligence to the President and his top policy makers in a timely and useful form.

To sum up, while there is a vigorous outgoing improvement program in CIA, we are not completely satisfied with our present efforts. I promise to continue to be a burr under the saddle of anyone who is content with less than an all-out effort. Those who are complacent will find me uncomfortable.

We are all most pleased to note the President's steady progress toward complete recovery of his health. We remain acutely conscious of the demands on his energies and hope that these ill-advised and ill-informed newspaper columnists will not disturb him.

Please be assured that we are going about our task of making CIA the best intelligence service in the world. If you or the President

should desire it, I would be greatly pleased to tell you more of these actions which are underway toward this objective.

Sincerely,

/s/

W. F. Raborn
Director

The Honorable Bill D. Moyers
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

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